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IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED OFFICE (DO/US)

In re: Stephan et al. Attn: DO/US
International Appl. No.: PCT/EP99/06373
International Filing Date: August 30, 1999
For: ENERGY GUIDE CHAIN FOR GUIDING LINES COMPRISING
CHAIN LINKS WHICH CAN MOVE IN THREE DIMENSIONS

February 28, 2001

Box PCT
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In The Claims:

Please amend Claims ~~3-7, 9, 11-14, 16-18, 22, 28 and 29~~ as follows:

3. (Amended) Energy line guide chain of claim 1, characterized in that the joint body (6,26,42) is made substantially cylindrical, and the joint receiver (7,27,42) has a substantially oval cross section.

4. (Amended) Energy line guide chain of claim 1, characterized in that the joint body (6,26,42) has a substantially oval cross section and the joint receiver (7,27,46) a circular cross section.

5. (Amended) Energy line guide chain of claim 1, characterized in that two adjacent chain links (1,21,37) are adapted for pivoting relative to each other over a sector angle up to about 45°.

6. (Amended) Energy line guide chain of claim 1, characterized in that the joint body (42) is formed by joint body segments (43), which are separated from one another by slots (44).